BENGALURU, THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

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Team of kayakers who are to participate in National Championship at end of April have not been able to train for past one month as Yale Mallappa Shetty lake where they practise is overrun with hyacinths

INVASION OF THE LAKE SNATCHERS

Lack of maintenance of lake mars our athletes' chances

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Yale Mallappa Shetty Lake is again in news for wrong reasons. The lake, under the Minor Irrigation Department, has been vulnerable to all types of encroachments all these years. Now, the lake has become a classic example for the gross negligence of authorities concerned. The authorities' apathy in ensuring that the lake remains free from weeds is set to ruin the prospects of prospective competitors from Bengaluru. Nine boys and seven girls are participating in the National Sub-Junior and Junior Kayaking Championship scheduled to be held in Bhopal from April 24 to 29.

The disadvantage is that these competitors were not able to have any training in kayaking for the last one month due to the spread of hyacinth in Yale Mallappa Shetty Lake. "We cannot arrange training programmes as the lake is full of weeds. This is a crucial time for the competitors to have training in kayaking as they are expected to participate

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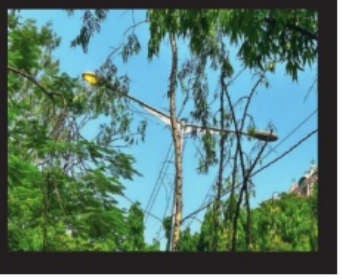
Railway Protection Force crack down on crime, rescue 583 children and recover valuables worth ₹49 lakh across SWR zone

PAGE 4
LIGHTS OFF
Don't waste power, plead residents of HAL Airport Road as BBMP forgets to switch off street lights day after day



THINGS TO DO

01 Celebrate Bihu

'The Spring Fest 2025: Rongali Bihu' is being organised with many exciting events like a book festival, northeast food festival, Bihu dance competitions etc.
Where: Freedom International School Ground, HSR Layout; When: April 12 and 13

02 Auditory health

To mark 20 years of excellence, Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing offers a free assessment camp for vertigo and tinnitus.
Where: Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing, Hebbal; When: April 3 to 10

03 Stage magic

Ranga Shankara is presenting 'HELLO TO EMPTINESS', a performative reflection on social vulnerability and on how we deal with grief.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: April 15 and 16, 7.30 pm

04 Innovative art

The eighth edition of the Whitefield Art Collective (WAC) with the theme 'Future is Now', invites viewers to engage with thought-provoking art and ideas that will define tomorrow.
Where: VR Bengaluru, Whitefield Main Road; When: March 27 to April 28

05 Craft exhibition

Hi Life Exhibitions is bringing luxurious fashion, exquisite jewellery, and elegant home décor all under one roof. From elegant ensembles to trendsetting accessories, experience a world of creativity and craftsmanship.
Where: The Lalit Ashok, Seshadripuram; When: April 11, 12,13, 10 am to 8 pm

RPF's efforts achieve significant milestones in reducing crime

Railway Protection Force recovered passenger items worth Rs 49.47 lakh, rescued 583 children, and made significant headway under Operation Satark and NARCOS

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Despite challenges, Railway Protection Force ensures safety and swift action in critical situations, highlighting force's dedication which enables effective response

In an effective crackdown on crime across the South Western Railway (SWR) zone, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) has ramped up operations through the financial year 2024-2025 (April to March), showing marked improvements across key areas such as narcotics seizures, child rescue, liquor smuggling, and recovery of lost valuables.

Amongst the most notable achievements was the rescue of 583 children under Operation Nanhe Farishtey, a significant increase compared to last year's figures, reflecting the RPF's intensified efforts in child protection and vigilance across railway stations. Under Operation Nanhe Farishtey, the RPF has successfully rescued a total of 583 children, including 480 boys and 103 girls, across various railway stations, ensuring their safe handover to child welfare authorities.

Liquor, narcotics smuggling busted

As part of Operation Satark, aimed at curbing the illegal transportation of liquor via trains, the Railway Protection Force has registered 94 cases and made 2 arrests, seizing liquor worth Rs 13.16 lakh during the year 2024–2025.

However, the most significant breakthrough came from Operation NARCOS, a special drive against narcotics smuggling. Under this operation, RPF officials have registered 66 cases and arrested 25 individuals. They have also seized a massive 441.307 kilograms of Ganja, worth Rs 4.05 crore.

The most significant breakthrough came from Operation NARCOS, under which RPF officials have registered 66 cases, arrested 25 individuals, and seized a massive 441.307 kilograms of Ganja, worth Rs 4.05 crore

A senior official from the South Western Railway stated that drug peddlers often exploit long-distance trains to move narcotics across state borders, believing it provides anonymity and speed. "Our vigilance teams, including undercover officers and sniffer dogs, have been strategically deployed to monitor suspicious movements at stations and onboard trains," the official said.

Swift action helps passengers

Under the Jeevan Raksha initiative, the Railway Protection Force extended its role beyond crime prevention, rescuing six male passengers in life-threatening situations.

The RPF's dedicated efforts to trace and return lost or stolen belongings led to the recovery of 669 passenger items valued at over Rs 49.47 lakh. These recoveries included 207 mobile phones, 61 laptops, 44 gold articles, 58 instances of cash, and 290 pieces of miscellaneous luggage items.

Determined effort despite limited resources

Despite grappling with a shortage of personnel, the Railway Protection Force has continued to maintain a strong presence across the South Western Railway zone, ensuring safety and swift action in critical situations. The department emphasized that it is the dedication of the force that has enabled them to respond effectively to diverse challenges, even with limited resources.

More govt schools to get English-medium classes

In response to the increasing demand for English-medium education, the Karnataka government has approved the introduction of English-medium sections alongside Kannada-medium in 208 government primary schools across various districts starting from the 2025–26 academic year.

Since 2019, the state has gradually expanded bilingual education, starting with 1,000 government schools and extending to 1,792 schools by 2024, providing instruction in both Kannada and English. These schools have witnessed a significant rise in admissions, driven by a high demand for English-medium instruction. Following this trend, the Department of School Education received proposals from an additional 208 primary schools, supported by requests from parents seeking English-medium education for their children. The government officially granted approval for these schools, continuing its push to make bilingual education more accessible across the state.

Govt permits guided Vidhana Soudha tours

The Karnataka government has issued an order allowing tourists, both domestic and international, along with the general public, to visit the iconic Vidhana Soudha through a guided tour system on public holidays, by paying a nominal entry fee. The Department of Tourism has been granted permission to implement this initiative under certain rules and conditions, ensuring that the entry fee remains affordable and citizen-friendly.

An official noted that according to the new guidelines, the guided tour will operate only on public holidays from 8 am until 6 pm. Visitors will be divided into groups of 30, and a tourism officer will be appointed to oversee each group, under the supervision of the Tourism Director. The official highlighted that details of the number of tourists and their identities must be submitted to the Vidhana Soudha Security Division on the day of the visit. An online ticketing system will be developed to facilitate smooth access to guided tours. "Visitors will be allowed inside only after verifying their official identification. The safety and integrity of the Vidhana Soudha building, its gardens, and statues must be preserved, and no damage will be tolerated," the official said.

Tickets for tour to be available online

A detailed route map for the tour will be prepared by the Public Works Department in coordination with the security division. For the convenience of visitors, a well-equipped medical team and ambulance will be present on-site, and the Fire Safety Department is instructed to take all necessary precautions.

Visitors must follow strict guidelines, including maintaining cleanliness within the premises, refraining from using drone cameras, and avoiding the carriage of food items, except for drinking water. Additionally, parking private vehicles inside the Vidhana Soudha premises is strictly prohibited.

Private vehicle sales dip again in Bengaluru

City sees second straight year of decline in two-wheeler and car sales, down 2.7% in 2024-25; experts cite traffic stress, poor roads, and fading post-COVID spending as key reasons

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Private vehicle sales in Bengaluru have slumped for the second consecutive year. In what appears to be a withdrawal from 'revenge buying' post-COVID, the number of private two-wheelers and cars sold has dropped by 2.7% in 2024-25, following the downturn of more than 20% last year, according to data from the Karnataka Transport Department.

Between April 2024 and March 2025, the city registered a little over 6.19 lakh private vehicles, including nearly 4.8 lakh two-wheelers and more than 1.45 lakh cars. In the corresponding period last year (2023-24), as many as 6.37 lakh private vehicles were registered, including 4.77 lakh two-wheelers and nearly 1.6 lakh cars.

In the financial year 2022-23, the total number of private two-wheelers and cars registered was a whopping 8.20 lakh.

City-based mobility experts say that while revenge spending post the pandemic is surely running out of steam, the stressful experience of driving on city roads might also be playing a role.

"While the COVID effect is fading, the extreme traffic congestion leading to stress during driving might along with a lack of parking space also be forcing people to look away from private vehicles. Bengaluru's roads are in deplorable condition, and a drop in the sale of private vehicles is an indicator of that. While this could be a preliminary factor, deeper analysis might provide a clearer picture of the reasons behind this trend," said a city-based public transport proponent.

Experts say such trends should be driven by design, and not due to deplorable infrastructure, which impacts the quality of life of citizens.

According to Professor Ashish Verma, Convenor of Sustainable Transportation (IST) Lab, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, should take a leaf out of Singapore's policy on private vehicles, which provides for freezing the number of cars on its roads. The city-state, in 2017, reduced annual vehicle growth from 0.25% to 0%, controlling the number of vehicles on the road.

"Singapore has an imitable system, which discourages ownership of cars through a set of carefully designed policies and interventions, including freezing the number of vehicles.

The number of private cars and motorcycles on roads has remained constant over years through certificate of entitlement and high taxes imposed on purchase of private vehicles," said Professor Verma, adding that along with push methods to discourage private vehicle ownership, pull measures, which is dense and affordable public transport system allowing 80% trips in the city is needed.

"Apart from mass transit systems underground, measures such as priority bus lanes and traffic signals are needed to make buses an affordable, accessible, reliable, and fast mode of travel for a large section of people. Exceptional pedestrian and cycling-friendly infrastructure and spaces along the length and breadth of the city are the need of the hour," he added.

As of March 31, Bengaluru has 1.08 crore private two-wheelers and cars on its roads – 82.83 lakh two-wheelers and 25.37 lakh cars. The total number of private vehicles, including service vehicles, tractors, and trailers, is a little over 1.09 crore and nearly 1.24 crores vehicles, including transport and non-transport.

HC nixes BCI order

The Karnataka High Court invalidated a Bar Council of India (BCI) resolution that had temporarily suspended Senior Advocate S Basavaraj. The High Court had earlier stayed this resolution through an interim order.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, whilst allowing Basavaraj's petition, stated, "It needs to be noticed that BCI has passed the impugned resolution on the revision petition and the R2 (Complainant-Surya Mukundraj) today wants to withdraw the revision petition filed before the BCI and before this court as well. Therefore, the foundation on which the BCI has passed the resolution has itself today tumbled down."

The ruling additionally noted, "In that light, the BCI cannot now contend that it wants to continue the proceedings notwithstanding there being nothing before it as the revision petitioner himself has withdrawn the revision petition and is before this court. In that light, nothing further survives for BCI to further consider."

The court rejected BCI's claim regarding its suo-motu power to continue with the revision petition. The court stated, "Strangely enough, the counsel for R1 is wanting to pursue the matter without anything being pending before it. In the light of there being nothing before the BCI acceding to the submission of the first respondent, BCI would be directing something contrary to law. In that light, there is nothing before the BCI today with the R2 himself withdrawing the revision petition. The petition deserves to succeed. Petition is allowed."

The court confirmed, "The withdrawal memo filed before BCI is appended and the signature of the second respondent is found on the memo," and subsequently granted the petition.

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Streetlights burn all day in broad daylight

Residents urge timely repairs and energy-efficient solutions amid growing safety concerns

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Streetlights shine on Old Airport Road even under the noon sun

While many Bengaluru streets stay dark at night, lights on HAL Airport Road never switch off which is wasting power and frustrating residents in a city striving for smart solutions. The residents and activists are aghast to see many streetlights on HAL Airport Road near Manipal Hospital are on during the day. The residents and activists want the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Streetlights Department to monitor and maintain the streetlights without wasting electricity.

Demanding that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities ensure timely switching on and off of streetlights, Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation, said that keeping streetlights on during the day is an inefficient use of electrical energy—especially at a time when the Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) is incurring significant losses in power supply and distribution. "In the era of AI and smart automation, particularly in a globally recognised tech hub like Bengaluru, this issue can be addressed through the installation of light-dependent sensors that automatically switch streetlights on at dusk and off at dawn. "This not only helps optimise energy consumption but also frees up valuable human resources to focus on more pressing infrastructure and maintenance tasks. Highlighting the need for better oversight, Shivakumar V, a social activist from Domlur, expressed shock at seeing streetlights glowing in broad daylight. 'At a time when we should be conserving electricity, it's unacceptable to see such carelessness. The BBMP must take immediate steps to fix this and ensure streetlights are used responsibly and efficiently,' he said. "The BBMP Streetlights Department has not taken measures to repair the streetlights on the road opposite Sri Shaneshwara Temple in Domlur. It is pitch dark at night and difficult for pedestrians to walk on the road.

> **"For a city that calls itself a tech capital, wasting power on daytime streetlights is more than ironic—it's avoidable. Smart fixes exist, we just need to use them**
>
> – Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation

I demand the BBMP authorities not only to repair the streetlights in Domlur but also switch off the streetlights on HAL Airport Road during the day," he said.

Poornima Shetty, Founder of Safety for Women, described the sight of streetlights glowing well after sunrise as a glaring indicator of administrative oversight. "This kind of inefficiency reflects poorly on urban governance, especially in a city striving to project itself as smart and sustainable," she said. Emphasising the need for immediate reforms, she added, "Authorities must leverage available technology—automated timers, light-sensitive sensors, and solar-powered systems—to ensure efficient energy use. It's not just about saving electricity; it's about demonstrating accountability and planning for a more sustainable, people-friendly city."

However, BBMP Streetlights Assistant Engineer Nayana said she was unaware that the streetlights were left on during the day. "I will send my subordinates to inspect the spot and ensure the issue is fixed," she said. She also urged citizens to report so it can be addressed quickly.

Multi-level parking plan proposed to control metro traffic mess

BMRCL to roll out multi-level parking at key Metro stations to reduce congestion, streamline vehicle flow, and offer deals to regular commuters

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File photo of vehicles at a metro station parking lot in the city

To tackle the growing problem of chaotic parking around Metro stations, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is planning to introduce multi-level parking (MLP) facilities at select locations.

A BMRCL official said, "At present, many commuters and others leave their vehicles parked along roads near Metro stations, causing traffic congestion and a shortage of space. The new proposal seeks to address this with vertical multi-level parking systems using advanced machinery. These facilities will be a game-changer in easing congestion by making better use of limited space. By optimising vertical space, we can accommodate more vehicles, eliminate risky roadside parking, and offer commuters a secure, convenient alternative. It's not just about parking—it's about enhancing the entire Metro travel experience."

Sources said that KR Puram and Majestic stations are likely to be the first to get these upgraded facilities. If successful, the model will be replicated at other high-footfall stations across the city.

A senior BMRCL official added, "Many Metro users currently park their vehicles outside in an unorganised manner. Our goal is to shift this into a structured multi-level system, which will not only ease traffic flow around stations but also offer safer parking options." Interestingly, the MLPs may also be accessible to non-Metro users. To prioritise and incentivise genuine Metro commuters, BMRCL is considering offering discounts or rebates on parking fees for those presenting valid Metro tickets or passes. "We want to provide some relief to regular Metro users who park their bikes or cars and take the train. This plan supports our larger goal of encouraging public transport and reducing the city's reliance on road-based travel," the official added.

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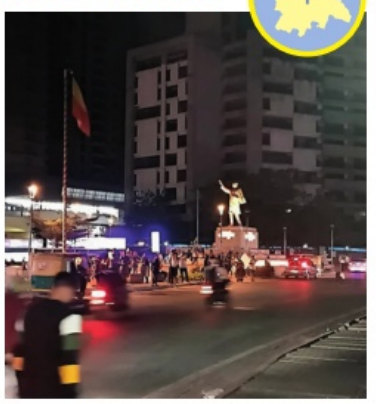
Blocked access
Kavalbyrasandra

Concrete blocks and barriers have been used to illegally privatise 1st Main Road in MM Layout, Kavalbyrasandra, restricting public movement and raising concerns among residents.

Transit trouble
Rajiv Gandhi Circle



With no proper bus shelter at Rajiv Gandhi Circle, commuters are left to brave the scorching heat while waiting for buses, especially during peak morning and afternoon hours.

Waste zone
CV Raman Nagar

A large pile of garbage including broken glass and a discarded TV was recently cleared from a road in Nagavarapalya, CV Raman Nagar.

Identity theft gets an upgrade

AI's advanced image tools are raising concerns after users demonstrated their ability to generate fake Aadhaar and PAN cards; as digital fraud risks grow, experts urge safeguards and responsible AI use

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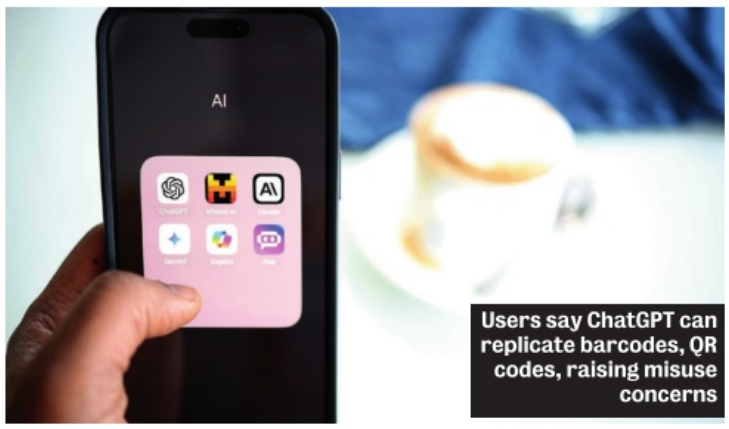
After the Ghibli trend, which turned personal photos into AI avatars and raised privacy concerns, the darker side of artificial intelligence is under scrutiny. As AI reshapes creativity and industries, its ethical and security risks are drawing growing alarm. Less than two weeks after the release of an upgraded image generation feature by OpenAI's ChatGPT, another conversation arose, the chatbot can fabricate convincing Aadhaar and PAN cards—India's most critical identity documents.

It all started when a user @yaswanthtweet on X (formerly Twitter) posted screenshots showing AI-generated Aadhaar and PAN cards featuring Aryabhatta, the ancient Indian mathematician. The cards bore fabricated numbers and appeared visually identical to authentic government-issued IDs. "ChatGPT is instantly generating fake Aadhaar and PAN cards, which is a serious security risk. This is exactly why AI needs regulation," the user warned, calling the technology's potential for misuse.



Users say ChatGPT can replicate barcodes, QR codes, raising misuse concerns

The idea that a chatbot could mass-produce near-authentic ID cards has led to widespread concern, with experts worried it could enable digital fraud, identity theft, or even phishing schemes. With India's vast population dependent on Aadhaar and PAN for everything from banking to healthcare, even a fraction of compromised identity credibility could spell disaster.

ChatGPT design tools controversy

An online debate has ignited after user Jash Jacob commented on X (formerly Twitter) about ChatGPT's image generation tools, saying, "This is so easy to do even with Canva," referencing a viral Studio Ghibli-inspired design trend. Another user countered, highlighting ChatGPT's speed by asking, "But can Canva do it in seconds?" The discussion coincides with ChatGPT's growing popularity in India, where it now reportedly surpasses other design platforms.

ChatGPT boasts 35.4 million weekly users, far exceeding Canva's 8.9 million monthly and Photoshop's 2.59 million users. Many users say ChatGPT offers more advanced outputs that are capable of replicating complex elements like barcodes and QR codes. Concerns have emerged over misuse.

Examining security concerns

An analysis of public comments and discussions surrounding AI tools like ChatGPT has raised a question: Where does the real risk lie when it comes to the misuse of such technologies?

Among the key concerns is whether ChatGPT can be used to generate sensitive documents like Aadhaar and PAN cards. While these IDs have security features such as QR codes, holograms, and biometric links, experts warn that advanced AI could aid forgery. This raises questions about digital security, identity theft, and the need for stronger safeguards to prevent the misuse of generative AI technologies.

Chetan Anand, National Cybersecurity Scholar and Cyber Crime Intervention Officer, believes that while OpenAI's content safeguards are fairly robust for text-based prompts, the image generator, particularly when used with creative phrasing or indirect language, may be more susceptible to misuse. "The concern isn't that AI is inherently malicious," one expert noted. "It's that clever users can find ways to jailbreak its tools."

HC notice on Ranya's bail

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday served notice to the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) regarding the bail application submitted by Kannada actress Harshavardhini Ranya Rao, who was arrested in a gold smuggling case. Justice S Vishwajith Shetty, presiding as a single judge, issued the notice and scheduled the next hearing for April 17, instructing the agency to submit their objections to the petition. Rao sought relief from the High Court following the rejection of her bail applications by both the Magistrate and Sessions courts. —BMB

Man gets life for murder

A 49-year-old man from Tharati village has been sentenced to life imprisonment by a Madhugiri court for the brutal murder of his wife, Yashoda, in 2021. The incident occurred on March 10, 2021, when the accused, Devaraj, attacked Yashoda with a machete over domestic disputes and suspicion regarding her job. Despite being treated at several hospitals, Yashoda succumbed to her injuries on April 14, 2021. On April 9, 2025, the 4th Additional District and Sessions Court, Madhugiri, presided by Judge Yadava Karakera, delivered the verdict under Section 302 IPC and imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh.

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Private bus travel to be costlier?

After bearing the brunt of successive price hikes, Karnataka's citizens may soon face yet another blow in the form of an increase in private bus fares. Private bus operators are considering raising ticket prices by 15–20%, citing escalating diesel prices and rising toll charges.

The Bus Owners' Association has warned that if the state government does not roll back the recent hike in diesel tax, they will have no choice but to revise fares. "Along with diesel, toll charges have also gone up. If we don't revise our fares, the private bus industry will incur heavy losses. It's becoming increasingly difficult to manage vehicle maintenance and staff salaries," said Nataraj Sharma, President of the Private Bus Owners' Association.

Operators argue that the hike is necessary to keep services afloat, especially on long-distance routes where fuel and toll costs significantly impact operations. Many have already begun informal consultations and are awaiting clarity from the government before making a formal announcement.

The proposed fare hike could hit passengers hard, particularly daily commuters and those travelling to tier-2 and tier-3 cities where private buses remain a primary mode of transport.

With state-run buses already grappling with capacity issues, a fare revision in the private sector could lead to increased travel costs and limited alternatives for budget-conscious travellers. **BMB**

Water tariff hike Announcement today?

After nearly a year of intense deliberation, the Karnataka government is expected to officially announce a hike in Cauvery drinking water tariffs on Thursday Sources indicate that the price for domestic water usage is likely to increase by 1 paisa per litre, marking the first such revision since 2014.

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I, Sairam Rajagopalan R/o Villa No.86, Sy No.86/15, Grand La Casa, Rk Farm Gate, Chandapura-anekal Road, Opposite Shell Petrol Pump, Byagadadenahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 562106 have changed my minor son's name from Rudra to Rudra Sairam.

I, Navanitha Shaine, residing at V41, Casagrand Esmeralda, Kotiganahalli, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal, Bangalore , Karnataka 562125, in some documents my name is wrongly mentioned as Navanitha Shaine Eswaramangalath but my correct and actual name is Navanitha Shaine for all future purposes

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BCU seeks 50 acres in Jnanabharathi for hostel

Of 1,201 acres of campus, 293 acres already allocated to 26 institutions

File photo of a renovated Bengaluru City University

Bengaluru City University (BCU) has submitted a proposal seeking 50 acres of land within the Jnanabharathi campus of Bangalore University for the construction of a hostel for postgraduate students.

Previously, the state government had requested 50 acres in the same campus for setting up the University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE). Additionally, a request for 25 acres was made for the construction of another facility. Now, amidst increasing land demands, BCU has decided to formally approach the government to secure land for its hostel project.

An official said, "Out of the 1,201 acres in the Jnanabharathi campus, around 293 acres have already been allocated to 26 different institutions. Additionally, approximately 300 acres are currently under encroachment. With multiple institutions vying for land, concerns have arisen over the shrinking availability of space needed for Bangalore University's future expansions."

Persistent efforts for land acquisition

BCU has been persistently requesting land from the government, stressing the urgent need for hostel facilities for postgraduate students. The university's vice-chancellors have approached the BDA and BBMP for suitable land, but securing 50 acres in a single location has been a challenge.

Sources said that the Social Welfare Department had been requested to fund the hostel construction, and it has given approval for two hostels, provided land is made available. However, the department has stipulated that the hostel should be open to all students from affiliated colleges within BCU's jurisdiction, not just its own students. This has further complicated the process, prompting BCU to seek an exclusive space within Jnanabharathi.

Syndicate decision and government proposal

The university syndicate has now decided to formally submit a proposal to the state government, emphasising the necessity of 50 acres for hostel construction. A delegation from BCU has already met with the Chief Minister and legislators, highlighting the land constraints faced by the university.

Sources said that previously, BCU had identified land in the Prasanna Kumar Block for hostel construction, but the limitations imposed by the government on usage forced the university to seek an alternative.

With land around Central College already repurposed for various projects, including road widening and the Karnataka State Higher Education Council, BCU is now determined to secure space within Jnanabharathi for its hostel project. —BMB

Paraguay-Cambodia delegation visits BCU

A delegation led by Paraguay's Ambassador to India, Fleming Duarte, and Cambodia's Consul, Karthik Tallam, visited the Jnana Jyothi Campus of Bangalore City University (BCU) to discuss academic collaboration.

On the invitation of BCU Syndicate member Dr. BR Supreeth, the delegation arrived at the Central College campus on Friday. They were warmly greeted by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Lingaraj Gandhi.During the discussions with the university administration and senior faculty members, the delegation discussed the opportunities available for academic and research collaborations. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Gandhi emphasised that BCU is introducing innovative courses in Science & Technology, Commerce & Management, and Humanities to meet the needs of the new generation.

He further stated that BCU has already established joint collaborations with 12 foreign universities in fields such as public health, environmental conservation, and smart city planning.

Recognising Bangalore's prominence in the information technology sector the Ambassador of Paraguay Fleming Duarte stated that a delegation led by Paraguay's Minister of Education would soon visit Bangalore to formalize an agreement in this regard. He also expressed keen interest in launching academic exchange programs in collaboration with BCU.

Cambodian Consul Karthik Tallam noted the cultural similarities between India and Cambodia, emphasizing the close resemblance between the Cambodian and Kannada languages. Tallam discussed about the possibility of academic exchange programme with BCU. —BMB

60%vacancies a concern

Former RGUHS Vice-Chancellor Dr. S Chandrashekar Shetty expressed concern over the 60% vacancy in teaching positions across Indian universities and urged immediate government action. Despite these hurdles, he applauded Prof. Gandhi's efforts in enhancing academic quality and infrastructure at BCU.

Chief guest Nadoja Woody P Krishna, President of Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi, called for timely recruitment of permanent faculty in public universities and commended Prof. Gandhi for launching innovative academic programs that empowered students from marginalized backgrounds.

Meanwhile, Outgoing Vice-Chancellor of Bengaluru City University (BCU), Prof. Lingaraj Gandhi, was felicitated at a grand ceremony held at the Jnana Jyothi Auditorium for his significant contributions to the field of education. —BMB

ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಯಿಂದ ಆಟಿಸಂ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮಾಸಾಚರಣೆ: ಪಾಲಕರನ್ನು ಸಬಲೀಕರಣಗೊಳಿಸಲು ತಜ್ಞರ ನೇತೃತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಗಾರ

ನರ ಸಂಬಂಧಿತ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಾಯ ಹಸ್ತವಾಗಿರುವ ಹಾಗೂ ನಂಬಿಕೆಗೆ ಅರ್ಹವಾಗಿರುವ ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ "ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ" ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ 26 ರಂದು "ಆಟಿಸಂ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮಾಸಾಚರಣೆ" ನಡೆಸಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ 'ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ' ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಾಲಕರಿಗೆ ಅರಿವು ಮೂಡಿಸಲು ಕಾರ್ಯಾಗಾರ ಆಯೋಜಿಸಿದೆ.

ವಿಕ ಬ್ರಾಂಡ್ Initiative

ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಗಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪೀಚ್ ಥೆರಪಿ, ಔದ್ಯೋಗಿಕ ಥೆರಪಿ, ಭೌತಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ, ವಿಶೇಷ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮತ್ತು ಪಾಲಕರಿಗೆ ತರಬೇತಿಯನ್ನು ನೀಡಲಿದೆ. ಇದು ಬಹುಶಿಸ್ತೀಯ ತಜ್ಞರ ತಂಡ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆಧಾರ ಸಹಿತ ಆರೈಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಗುವಿನ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸುಧಾರಿಸಲು ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿಕೊಡಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಗಾರವು ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್. 26 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 10 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ 2 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ವರ್ಚುವಲ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಾದ ಜೂಮ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಲಿದೆ. ಆರು ವೃತ್ತಿಪರ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ತಜ್ಞರು ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಗಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಟಿಸಂ ಅನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು, ವರ್ತನೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು, ಸಂವೇದನಾ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು, ಆಟದ ಥೆರಪಿ, ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಕೌಶಲ್ಯ, ಔದ್ಯೋಗಿಕ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ (ಓಟಿ)ಮೂಲಕ ಗಮನವನ್ನು ಸುಧಾರಿಸಲು ತಂತ್ರಗಳು. ಕಾರ್ಯಾಗಾರವನ್ನು ವರ್ತನೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಣತಿ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ತಜ್ಞ ಡಾ.ಪ್ರಭಾವತಿ ಮುನ್ನಡೆಸಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳ ನರರೋಗ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಜ್ಞೆ ಡಾ. ಸುಷ್ಮಾ ಕೇಶವ್, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಫಿಜಿಯೋ ಥೆರಪಿಸ್ಟ್ ನಿವಿತಾ ರಾಯ್, ವಿಶೇಷ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪರಿಣಿತೆ ಮೌನ ಸಿದ್ದಪ್ಪ, ವಿಶೇಷ ಭಾಷಾ ಪೆಥಾಲಿಜಿಸ್ಟ್ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ಶ್ರೀ, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಔದ್ಯೋಗಿಕ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ (ಓಟಿ) ತಜ್ಞೆ ಬಾಶಾಡ್ ದತ್ತ ಪಾಂಡಾ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ ತಂಡವು ಆಯೋಜಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಗಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಟಿಸಂ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವುದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಯು ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಆರ್ ಹೆಲ್ತ್ ಫೌ. ಲಿ. ನ ಒಂದು ಉಪಕ್ರಮದ ಘಟಕವಾಗಿದೆ.

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Blackbucks living on the edge as wildfires devour sanctuary

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As temperatures soar across Karnataka with the onset of summer, the once-lush forests are now dry and fire-prone. This has resulted in the rapid decline of wildlife in many forest regions, especially in the Jayamangali Blackbuck Sanctuary, where recurring wildfires have severely impacted the blackbuck population.

The Jayamangali Blackbuck Conservation Reserve in Madhugiri taluk, Tumakuru district, spread across approximately 50 acres, is home to a rare population of blackbucks. However, due to the lack of adequate food and protection, this unique species is facing a survival crisis. Once considered the second-largest blackbuck reserve in the state, the sanctuary is now struggling to sustain its wildlife.

Scorched by wildfires and encroachments , Jayamangali sanctuary faces habitat loss and poor conservation threating its blackbuck population

Rising threats from wildfires and habitat loss

Recently, rampant wildfires have scorched the sanctuary, burning grasslands and vegetation critical for grazing. The scarcity of fodder and water has intensified the crisis. Although the Forest Department has constructed water troughs for the animals, the surrounding areas lack greenery, resulting in insufficient food. As a result, blackbucks are now forced to roam farther in search of sustenance.

Adding to the concern, unregulated construction of poultry farms around the sanctuary—allegedly in violation of forest conservation laws has further disturbed the delicate ecosystem. Conservationists warn that these intrusions threaten the region's flora and fauna.

> **"Despite the sanctuary's importance, the population of blackbucks is declining drastically. Authorities must act under the Forest Conservation Act** –Activist Dr K Narasimhaiah

Legacy of protest and continued neglect

In 2017, when the government proposed dumping BBMP waste into the sanctuary, farmers and activists, led by freedom fighter Dr HS Doreswamy, staged large-scale protests to protect the reserve. The movement successfully halted the proposal. However, recent developments indicate renewed threats due to administrative apathy and external encroachments.

"Despite the sanctuary's importance, the population of blackbucks is declining drastically. Authorities must take action under the Forest Conservation Act. If they fail, progressive organisations are ready to launch a fresh agitation," said activist Dr K Narasimhaiah.

Dwindling numbers and revenue concerns

Nearby, in the Namada Chilume deer park in Tumakuru taluk, a total of 43 deer reportedly died between 2016 and 2021, including 29 females, 13 males, and one fawn. In 2017 alone, three deer were killed by leopards. According to the latest 2024 census, only 99 deer remain in the park: 45 males, 30 females, and 4 fawns.

While the Jayamangali Sanctuary generated over 84,000 in visitor revenue in 2023–24, activists argue that little has been done to improve its infrastructure or conservation efforts. "Despite generating lakhs through entry fees and government grants, the sanctuary remains poorly maintained," said R Vishwanathan, a social worker from Tumakuru.

Department's response

Forest Range Officer H Suresh acknowledged the challenges. "Recent fires have burned most of the grazing areas. Without rain, the regrowth of fodder is impossible. Blackbucks are straying far in search of food. We've constructed fire trenches to prevent further spread. No official permits have been issued for the nearby poultry farms. We have also discovered ticks and parasites in the sanctuary, which could pose additional threats. This has been reported to higher authorities," he said.

Environmental activists and local organisations have warned that unless urgent steps are taken.

Kayaker needs a lake without weeds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the competition in the last week of this month," said Mahesh MS, coach.

Expressing concern over the lack of training, M Tejasree, who wants to participate in the 35th National Sub-Junior and Junior Kayaking Championship in Bhopal, said the team members from Bengaluru did have the chance to bag medals at the Kayaking Championship, provided they get the requisite training. "I could not practise kayaking for the last one month due to the spread of hyacinth at the lake. We urge the authorities concerned to ensure that the weeds are cleared," said Tejasree.

Tejasree won silver medal in Kayak Double 500 metre, silver medal in Dragon Boat Race 200 metre and silver medal in 500 metre in Karnataka State Games held at Udupi from January 17 to 21, 2025.

Expressing concern over the spread of weeds in the lake, Samara A Chacko said that she is proud to represent Bengaluru and India in the sport of kayaking. "I have won gold medals at the Karnataka State Games 2025 in multiple categories, earned a national silver medal, and represented India at the Asian Championship in Thailand, where I finished among the top five athletes in Asia. Despite these achievements, I am forced to train in a lake overrun with dense weeds and lacking basic maintenance — This is not an isolated incident, but a daily reality for many aspiring Indian water sport athletes," Samara said.

She said that she is aiming to bring home a medal at the upcoming Asian Games. "I urge the authorities and governing bodies to recognise the immense potential of athletes like myself and the urgent need for infrastructure support. We need clean, safe, and professionally maintained water bodies to train, alongside proper coaching and equipment support," she said.

Appealing to the authorities to keep the lake clean, Captain Dilip Kumar, Secretary, Karnataka Kayaking and Canoeing Association, said that training programmes were being organised from 2016 at the lake with the help of Minor Irrigation and Karnataka Olympic Association. "It would be a great help for us to organise training programmes if the authorities take measures to remove weeds from the lake," Captain Kumar said.

Minor Irrigation Department engineer Vasu said that he has already sent a proposal for funds to clean the lake. "We will remove weeds as soon as the funds are released," he said.

Minister for Minor Irrigation NS Boseraju, who is attending AICC conference at Ahmedabad, said that he would direct the secretary of the Minor Irrigation Department to look into the matter.

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SCIENCE TOPPERS 2024-25

AAI inspects airport sites

Top officials from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) on Wednesday inspected one of the three shortlisted sites for Bengaluru's proposed second airport near Kunigal Road. A day earlier, the team had visited two other locations off Kanakapura Road. After the inspections, the officials held discussions with Infrastructure Development Minister MB Patil. A live presentation was made to the AAI team, highlighting the growing need for a second airport in Bengaluru due to rising industrial activity and increasing civilian air traffic. Minister Patil stressed the government's commitment to maintaining transparency in the site selection process. He said the final decision would be made based on the AAI's report and recommendations, considering the city's specific needs.

Even as the AAI inspects the three shortlisted sites, there is growing support for the airport to come up at Sira in Tumakuru district, about 120 km from Bengaluru — with Union Minister of State V Somanna lending his voice to the demand. A number of legislators, cutting across party lines, have signed a petition addressed to the Chief Minister and the Union Minister, urging them to select Sira as the site for the proposed airport. The campaign is being spearheaded by senior Congress leader and MLA T B Jayachandra.

–BMB & Agencies

CLOSERHOME

'State govt will bring in new law to regulate online betting, gambling'

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday said the government will be bringing in a new law aimed at regulating online betting and gambling.

He told reporters a committee of senior officials and industry representatives has been constituted and it has been given a month's time to submit a draft of the proposed bill.

"I chaired a meeting on online betting and gambling yesterday along with the IT Minister. Representatives from the industry were called. There is nothing to regulate them so far. They have agreed to the introduction of a licence system and a regulation as per law," Parameshwara said.

"Once the draft is submitted, we will bring in a new law," he added.

Minister for Information Technology and Biotechnology Priyank Kharge had last month said the government is mulling over bringing the entire online gaming, real money gaming under a legal parameter. **PTI**

MUDA case closure report: Court verdict on April 15

The Special Court for MLAs and MPs has reserved its order on the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) objection to the closure report in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) case involving Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others.

Following the conclusion of arguments and counterarguments, Judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat on Wednesday reserved the matter for judgment on April 15.

The ED has challenged the Karnataka Lokayukta's closure report by filing a petition in the Special Court.

The ED in its petition had urged the court not to accept the closure report filed by the investigating agency, Karnataka Lokayukta, Mysuru, in the interest of justice and issue necessary directions as deemed fit for investigation in the case.

The ED, while presenting its arguments in connection with the MUDA scam at the Special Court for MLAs and MPs in Bengaluru, had appealed that the accused involved in money laundering should not be let off easily.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has been named as the prime accused in the MUDA case. His wife, Parvati, is the second accused, and his brother-in-law, Mallikarjunaswamy, is the third.

The Karnataka Lokayukta had earlier submitted a closure report citing a lack of evidence against them. **IANS**

Live concert

Padma Bushan K S Chithra Live in Concert Curated by Mahaloth Melodies (Stephen and David) on April 5, 2025, at Phoenix Marketcity Bangalore

POCSO case against cop over sexual exploitation of minor

In a concerning development in Yadgir district, a minor girl filed a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on Wednesday against a police Constable, alleging two years of sexual exploitation by him.

The incident was reported from the vicinity of the Sydapura police station near Gurumathkal taluk. The victim lodged her complaint against the Constable at the Yadgir Women's Police Station.

According to the police, the accused Constable, attached to the Sydapura police station, approached the victim when she was 16-years-old, claiming to be in love with her, and subsequently sexually exploited her for two years.

The accused Constable had promised to marry her and continued the relationship with her. In her complaint, the victim further stated that when she became pregnant, the Constable gave her tablets to cause an abortion. **IANS**

Siddaramaiah denies irregularities in mine lease renewals

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has denied allegations of irregularities in mine lease renewals, terming them a politically motivated conspiracy. He accused certain groups of spreading false propaganda to mislead the public. Clarifying the timeline, he said that prior to 2015, lease renewals were permitted under the MMDR Act for 20 years. Conditional approvals were given by the state only to facilitate forest clearances.

Conditional approvals were given by the state only to facilitate forest clearances, says CM

However, following a 2015 amendment to the MMDR Act by the Centre, Karnataka cancelled earlier approvals after a legal review. One lease was scrapped following a Supreme Court directive, while seven others were conditionally extended, subject to forest/environment clearance and investigation compliance. He added that two companies failed to provide mandatory documents and received no mining rights. Of the leases renewed, three were under BJP rule (2020–21), while two were earlier. Siddaramaiah clarified that there was no illegal mining or financial loss.

This comes as one Ramamurthy Gowda submitted a petition to the Governor seeking sanction to prosecute Siddaramaiah for alleged violations of anti-corruption and mining laws. The activist has accused the Chief Minister of receiving kickbacks worth Rs 500 crore in the process.According to the petition, Siddaramaiah granted in-principle nods and deemed extensions to eight mining companies. **BMB**

Club members are champs in BTC cricket bash

The members of the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) proved too good in the annual BTC T-10 cricket tournament. Spearheaded by a fine unbeaten knock from southpaw Dhruv Devatha, who remained unbeaten on (86) and a good allround effort from skipper Nikhil Yathiraj (21 n.o, 2/15), the club members (Warriors) outclassed the Tornadoes by a big margin of 65 runs in the final under lights at the BTC on Tuesday. The Jockeys XI, winners in the earlier two editions of the tournament found the going tough against the two sides that stretched every sinew to make it to the final. Tornadoes beat Jockeys XI to earn the right to challenge Warriors in the summit clash.

Batting first, Dhruv set the tone for the Warriors belting a dozen sixes in his match-winning knock. The 65-run unbeaten partnership in the final three overs between Dhruv and Nikhil knocked the stuffing out of the Tornadoes from which they never recovered and in what at end turned out to be a one-sided final, the Warriors after scoring 140/6 in the allotted 10 overs shot out the Tornadoes, 65 runs short of the winning target.

Immensely pleased with the performance of his boys in the two games, skipper Nikhil was all praise for Dhruv who pulled the plug and fused out the Tornadoes in the final.

—Ikram Khan

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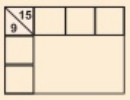
Dr. D. PREMACHANDRA SAGAR, PRO-CHANCELLOR

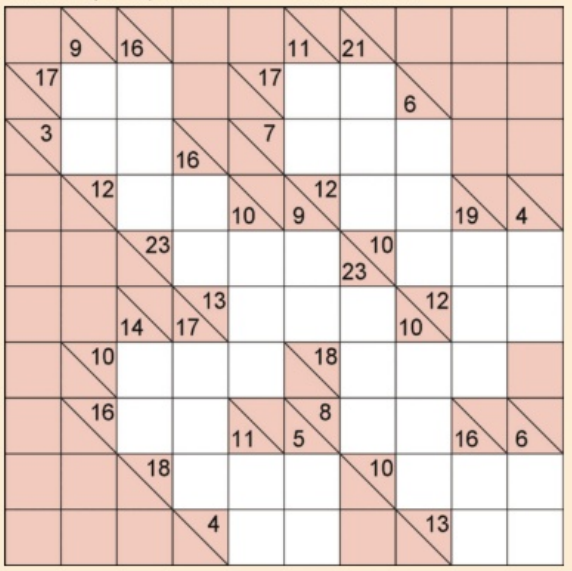
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

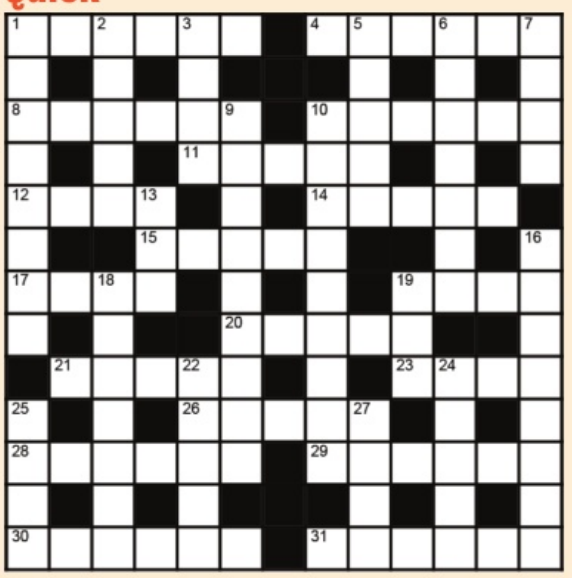


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Movies informally (6)
4 Round body (6)
8 Pillager (6)
10 Capital of Germany (6)
11 Increase in strength or accelerate sharply? (3,2)
12 A donut shaped savoury South Indian dish (4)
14 Old time rulers of Russia (5)
15 Cleaned the floor (5)
17 Onion-like herb (4)
19 Joyous song or broken "pane" ? (4)
20 Tolerated (5)
21 Noisy quarrel (5)
23 Had on (4)
26 Kingdom (5)
28 Hot and emotional (6)
29 The colour of cowardice? (6)
30 Mollycoddle (6)
31 Manages but not very successfully? (4,2)

DOWN

1 Good-bye (8)
2 Greek epic (5)
3 Bollywood's Anupam ___ (4)
5 Looks through a small hole (5)
6 Magnify (7)
7 Long time periods (4)
9 Looked like, was similar to (9)
10 Bannerghatta National Park is home to India's first ____ enclosure (9)
13 Inquire of (3)
16 Ongoing (5,3)
18 Tympanum (7)
19 Church seat (3)
22 Drop a line (5)
24 Eyes amorously (5)
25 Halt (4)
27 Apportion or share out (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: I EQUALS G

E QFDY NEWLYKKYT WQY KH-SWYLELI HS WQY QFBTYKW HS QYFBWK CO F KEURMY KUEMY.

Linemaro

I saw the cutest thing in the window: Your reflection

Mindchow

When we are absolutely certain, we are almost impervious to fear. Thus even a feeling of utter unworthiness, when firm, can be a source of courage

Joke of the day

We've got stained glass windows in our house; it's those damned pigeons.

Loop

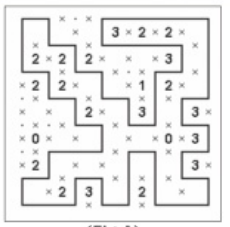
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

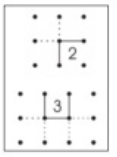
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

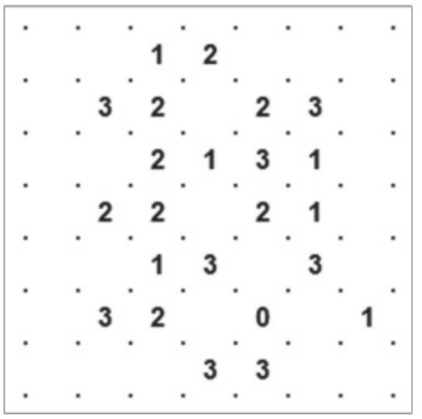
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



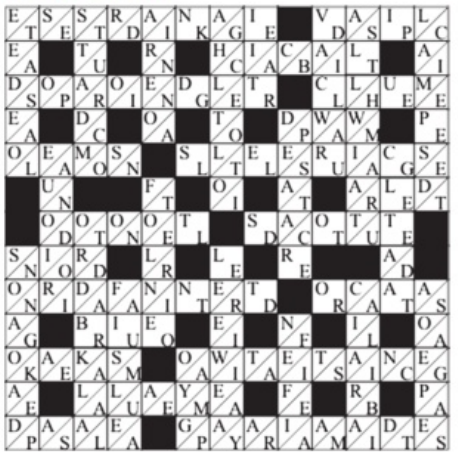
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



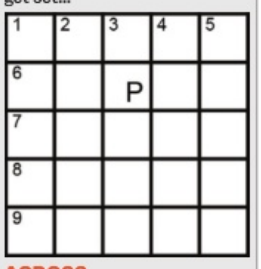
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

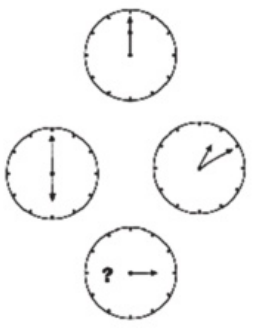
1 As apt; 6 Leper; 7 Cig in; 8 I'm Ali; 9 Salpa

DOWN

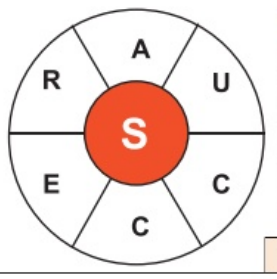
1 Mr Pip; 2 Ace I a; 3 Pills; 4 A tine; 5 Galas

Mensapuzzle

Where should the minute hand point to on the bottom clock?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 12 Good; 14 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

7						2		
	5	1	2					
4					5	3	7	
		3		6		4		5
			3	9	2			
2		7		1		6		
	1	5	4					9
					7	5	6	
		6						2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 13
3 7 8 9

Medium = 12
3 4 7 7

Hard = 20
1 4 6 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

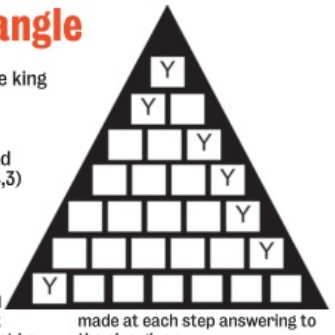
Differences: 1. Purse is smaller. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Clipboard is not as wide. 4. Garage door handle is lower. 5. Leg is moved. 6. Foot is moved.

Riddler

A spoonerism is a pair of words that can have their initial sounds switched to form new words. The pairs need only sound the same, not necessarily be spelled the same. There may sometimes be one or two connecting words. Given the following definitions, what are the spoonerisms?
1) locomotive accident & a wading bird's garbage
2) a prim and proper man from Stockholm & a sugary necessity

Alpha triangle

1 Youth leader!
2 Legendary Chinese king
3 Chap
4 Unsightly
5 Gummy
6 Praise for the dead
7 Christmas cake (4,3)

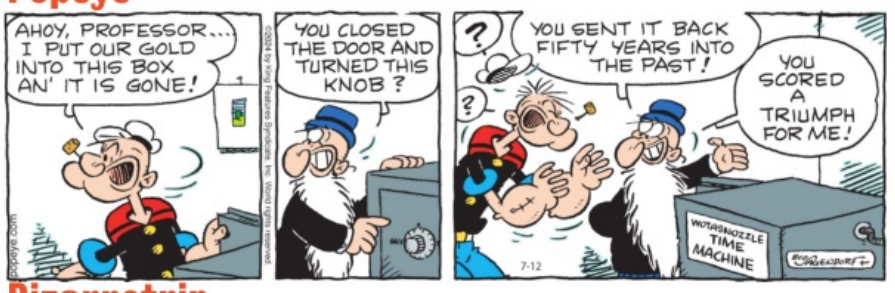


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

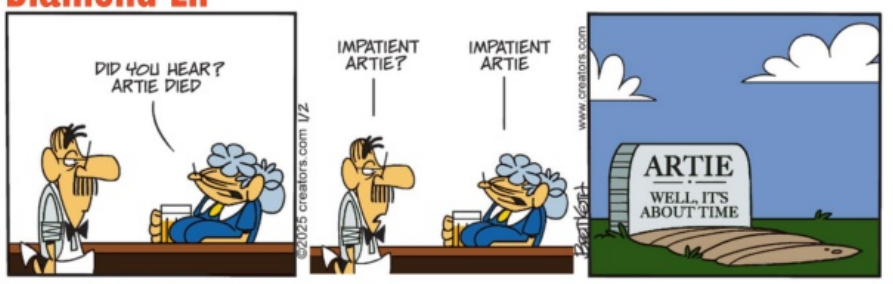
COMICS

Popeye


AHOY, PROFESSOR... I PUT OUR GOLD INTO THIS BOX AN' IT IS GONE!
YOU CLOSED THE DOOR AND TURNED THIS KNOB ?
YOU SENT IT BACK FIFTY YEARS INTO THE PAST!
YOU SCORED A TRIUMPH FOR ME!
WOTASNOZZLE TIME MACHINE

Bizarrotrip

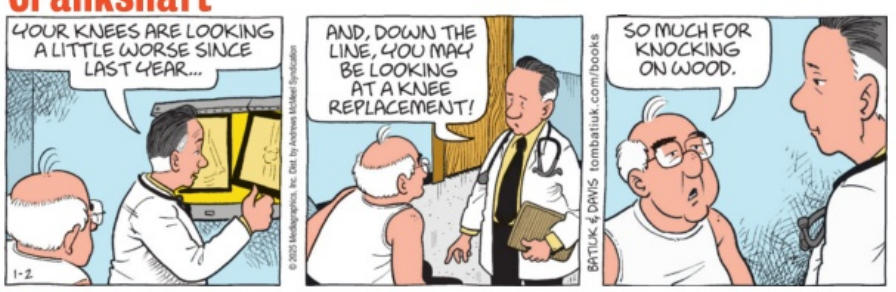
Diamond Lil



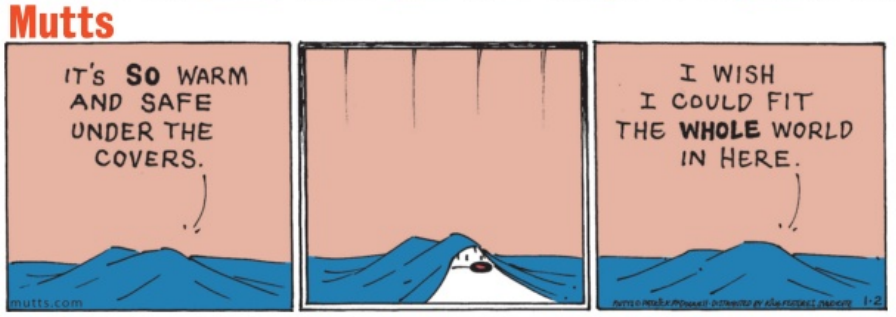
Hart of the city

SOME CHARACTERS' STORIES ARE MENTIONED ON THE CARDS.
PLOT ALSO COMES IN THE FORM OF OFFICIAL NOVELS, UPDATES FROM THE COMPANY... BUT I LOVE FANFICTION.
WHAT'S FANFICTION?
HEART, I'M ABOUT TO OPEN YOUR WHOLE WORLD UP.

Crankshaft


YOUR KNEES ARE LOOKING A LITTLE WORSE SINCE LAST YEAR...
AND, DOWN THE LINE, YOU MAY BE LOOKING AT A KNEE REPLACEMENT!
SO MUCH FOR KNOCKING ON WOOD.
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, the positive influence of the Moon may bring happiness. Your patience will support you at every step. Your job performance may be appreciated, possibly leading to incentives or rewards. Family health issues are likely to be resolved. Job seekers might find opportunities aligned with their expertise.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today may bring mixed results. It's best not to expect too much from others, as it could lead to disappointment. This is a good time for self-exploration and inner reflection. Through self-analysis, you may gain renewed confidence and clarity, preparing you to tackle new challenges.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Dissatisfaction may cloud your mood today. You might find it hard to enjoy the present and may struggle with a lack of patience, leading to small mistakes at work. Consider visiting a spiritual or peaceful place. Meditation or yoga is highly recommended to help center your mind.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You are blessed by the Moon today, and luck may be on your side. You may feel energetic and focused on your goals, and your hard work is likely to be rewarded. Support from colleagues will help move projects forward. A short work-related trip may prove beneficial. Good news from a sibling is possible.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Family matters may take center stage today. Important domestic decisions might be on your plate. Avoid arguments at home—arrogance may disturb your peace. By evening, the situation is likely to stabilize. Trust your intuition when making business-related investments.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Previous chaos may now be under control, bringing mental peace. You may successfully balance your expenses and earnings, boosting your financial well-being. Avoid excessive travel or overworking, as it could impact your health. Students can start planning for their future, and love birds are likely to share joyful moments.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may feel mentally drained due to a lack of sleep. This could lead to reduced focus and low energy, impacting your responsibilities. Laziness may delay your tasks. Avoid adventure activities, driving recklessly, or spending on unnecessary items. Prioritize rest and recovery.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Social engagements may keep you occupied today, and you might reconnect with old friends. Networking may open up beneficial opportunities in the near future. Those in export-import, fashion, or art-related fields may perform well. Students are likely to do well in academics. Love birds will likely enjoy quality time together.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Support from family may uplift your spirits today. Family business expansion may be on the cards, enhancing your family's social standing. Planning for a new child could also strengthen bonds among family members. Students might apply for scholarships for higher education.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Spirituality may guide you today, and destiny could favor you. Past investments may bring returns. Improved relations with your boss could lead to promotions or recognition. Good news from a sibling is possible. However, watch your words in personal relationships—harsh speech may cause friction.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Sleeplessness may affect your energy levels today, making you feel lethargic and careless. Nervousness at work could impact ongoing projects. Avoid investing in unproductive ventures. Stay away from spicy food, as digestive issues are likely. Drive safely and avoid impulsive decisions.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may feel joyful and spread positivity around you. Domestic life is harmonious, and romantic moments with your spouse are likely. Family support may help you make key professional decisions. New business ventures or partnerships might be in the works.

KIDZONE

A Harin Raam, 8 Years, New Cambridge English School

Rushil Gowda, 7 Years, Bishop Cotton Boys School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
True
0.5 = 0.5

RIDDLER
1) train crash & crane
trash & 2) neat Swede & sweet need

BULL'S EYE
accuse, ACCUSER, case, cause, curse, ruse, sauce, saucer, scar, scarce, scare, sear, sure, user

FAST FIVE

P	A	S	T	A
R	E	P	E	L
I	C	I	N	G
M	I	L	I	A
P	A	L	A	S

QUOTE UNCODE
I have witnessed the softening of the hardest of hearts by a simple smile.

STRIKE OUT

D	A	L	E		P	Y	R	A	M	I	D	S		
E		L	L	A	M	A		F		B		A		
K	E	A	S		A	W	A	I	T	I	N	G		
S	P	R	I	N	G	E	R		C	H	U	M		
E		C		O		T		P	A	W		P		
L	E	O	N		S	T	E	E	R	A	G	E		
D	A	L	E		P	Y	R	A	M	I	D	S		

MENSA PUZZLE
Minute hand pointing to 6
Starting with the top clockface and moving clockwise around the others, the hour hand moves forward by 1 hour, then 2, then 3, while the minute hand moves forward by 10 minutes, then 20, then 30.

QUICK

F	L	I	C	K	S		S	P	H	E	R	E		
A		L		H		E		N		O				
R	A	I	D	E	R		B	E	R	L	I	N		
E		A		R	E	V	U	P		A		S		
W	A	D	A		S		T	S	A	R	S			
L	E	E	K		M		E		P	E	A	N		
S		D		R	E	A	L	M		G		R		
T	O	R	R	I	D		Y	E	L	L	O	W		
B	R	A	W	L		F		W	O	R	E			
L		A		B	O	R	N	E		D				
E		S	W	E	P	T		G		U				
W	A	D	A		S		T	S	A	R	S			
P	A	M	P	E	R		G	E	T	S	B	Y		

STARTING WITH THE TOP CLOCKFACE AND MOVING CLOCKWISE AROUND THE OTHERS, THE HOUR HAND MOVES FORWARD BY 1 HOUR, THEN 2, THEN 3, WHILE THE MINUTE HAND MOVES FORWARD BY 10 MINUTES, THEN 20, THEN 30.

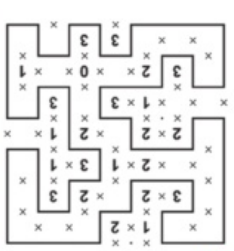
SUDOKU

7	3	8	9	4	1	2	5	6
6	5	1	2	7	3	9	8	4
4	2	9	6	8	5	3	7	1
1	9	3	7	6	8	4	2	5
5	6	4	3	9	2	8	1	7
2	8	7	5	1	4	6	9	3
8	1	5	4	2	6	7	3	9
9	4	2	1	3	7	5	6	8
3	7	6	8	5	9	1	4	2

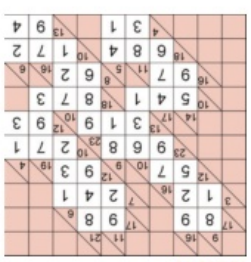
GO FIGURE
Easy
8 – 7 + 3 + 9 = 13
Medium
4 x 3 – 7 – 7 = 12
Hard
4 + 6 x 2 x 1 = 20

ALPHA TRIANGLE
Y, Yu, Guy, Ugly, Gluey, Eulogy, Yule log.

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 18, Issue No 071 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # 'DDLJ' statue in Leicester Square
Bollywood superstars Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol's 1995 blockbuster "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge" (DDLJ) by Yash Raj Films is set to become the first ever statue honouring Indian cinema to be erected in London's Leicester Square

BangaloreMirror | 12
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Entertainment Industry Promotion

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Reflection of society

The team of Kapata Nataka Sutradhari was on cloud nine when four prominent personalities of Sandalwood unveiled the first look poster of the movie. Actor-cum-producer Daali Dhananjaya, heroine Sangeeta Bhat, directors KM Chaitanya and Monsore have unveiled the first look poster on social media. The movie is directed by Dhiraj MV. The movie's shoot was wrapped up recently. Dhiraj, basically an engineer, debuts as an independent director in Sandalwood with this movie. Prior to this, Dhiraj worked under the guidance of directors such as Sunil Kumar Desai, Mata Guruprasad and others apart from directing a few short films.

"The shooting was held at different locations in North Karnataka as s the movie needs dry and barren locations," said Dhiraj.

The director said most of the cast are newcomers. "We conducted auditions to select actors.Most of them have a strong background in theatre. We also conducted workshops for them to hone their acting skills," the director said.

Dream realised

Debutant director Surya is happy to have realised his decade long-pending dream of directing a Kannada movie. The movie Power Star Dharage Doddavanu went to floors at Kanteerava Studios on Monday. Director Shashank switched on the camera and wished good luck to the cast and crew of the movie. Veteran character actor-cum-director Suchendra Prasad and film distributor Ramesh Babu graced the function.

Thanking the guests, Surya said he wrote this script in 2014 and Yash was supposed to play the lead but due to some reasons could not. "We made a teaser by spending Rs 50 lakh but we could not get Yash's call sheet due to some unavoidable circumstances. Now, we have made some changes to the script and began the movie's shooting," he said. He has worked as an associate and assistant director for 15 movies. He said the movie is about a visually-challenged child. "We are in talks to get Arun Yogiraj, who has sculpted Ram Lalla idol, on board for a key role as a sculptor in the movie," he said.

YOU HAVE TO BE YOURSELF'

Nithya Menen on how she manages to stick to being natural in the age of micromanaged looks

Nithya Menen is one of the most loved actresses in Indian cinema. However, Nithya hasn't really fitted into any mould. As it's her birthday today, here's recalling her chat with ETimes where the actress spoke about breaking stereotypes, even when it comes to the way actresses are expected to look onscreen.

> "I had curly hair and when I was growing up, in school & college it was heavily criticised

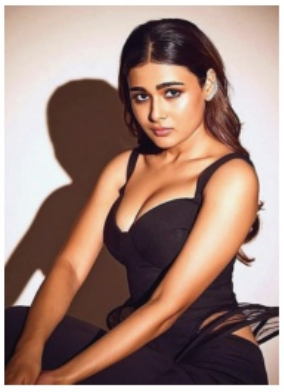
When asked about how she could be herself, Nithya told ETimes, "You have to be yourself. That is something which today I'm starting to see a trend of people not being themselves. People are micromanaging their looks, their face. But you don't need any of that. You have to be yourself, or else you will get diluted. For me, I was just unable to do anything else, than be myself. But that's what gets you recognised and when I get recognised, I hope it gives people the feeling that they can be themselves."

Further when asked if she's had any moments of feeling insecure, Nithya said, "Everyone has moments of insecurity. I remember, initially, I had curly hair and when I was growing up in school and college, it was heavily criticised. At that time, straightening was a big trend, everyone used to do it. But I couldn't imagine doing something that was not me. So, I found ways to make my curls look good, naturally. I never used products and I still don't. There was always this criticism for me that you're short or too fat, your hair is too big, eyebrows are too big. Thankfully, I was somehow made like that where I thought, 'why would you talk about my looks? I have something more to offer. Look at what I bring to the character.' It doesn't matter how tall or short I am or how thin or fat. Look at the subtle things I bring to the craft."

The actress won a National Award last year for her film 'Thiruchitrambalam' with Dhanush. Nithya was last seen in 'Kadhalikka Neramillai'.

—Ankita Kanabar, ETimes

'His eyes are just amazing to watch...'



Shalini Pandey started her acting career with the 2017 Telugu hit Arjun Reddy, where she starred alongside Vijay Deverakonda. In 2022, she was seen with Ranveer Singh in Jayeshbhai Jordaar. Now, Shalini hopes to share the screen with Ranbir Kapoor.

Dream co-star

In a recent interview with Instant Bollywood, Shalini Pandey praised Ranbir Kapoor and said she hopes to work with him someday. She called him a magical actor whose expressions, especially through his eyes, deeply connect with the audience—even without dramatic movements. She's eager to romance him on screen. Shalini shared that she would love to act alongside Ranbir Kapoor just to experience the magic he brings on screen.

Interestingly, she also has another connection to him—many fans often compare her to his wife, Alia Bhatt. Talking about the same, she said that while she admires Alia's work and talent, Shalini said she doesn't want to be seen as a copy. She believes there's no need for "another Alia" in the industry and wants to be recognised for who she truly is.

—ETimes

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